



Department of Human Services

Dear Stakeholder,

On this eve of the New Year, it's important to reflect on work we've accomplished together, and to extend my thanks on behalf of the Department.

Our work together in support of so many New Jersey's residents - seniors, people with disabilities, individuals and families in need - is critical, especially as we begin the recovery and rebuilding phase after Hurricane Sandy.

The struggling economy of the last few years and the effects of two severe storms have stretched our resources like never before. We'll continue to need help from all of you - community and faith based agencies and organizations - in 2013.

This year has been challenging but it also has been extremely rewarding. The Department was involved in some great events, launched exciting new programs, integrated new services, and advanced several important initiatives. We've created a [short video](#) to commemorate the year. I hope you all get a chance to view it.

Much of this work will continue in earnest in the new year, particularly with regard to our healthcare delivery systems for managed long term services and supports and behavioral health.

Our year in review includes the following highlights. This is not an exhaustive list, but it does represent some great accomplishments:

- The launch of e-Child Care, a state of the art, computer-based platform that has replaced outdated, burdensome manual billing and attendance submissions. This system improves transparency, accountability and better serves families participating in the subsidized child care program.
- Obtaining federal approval on our Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver

- Receiving a bonus award from CMS for CHIP enrollment strategies
- The signing of a reciprocal agreement with the Dominican Republic to enforce Child Support Orders
- The Governor's designation of New Jersey as an Employment First state.
- Our participation in breaking the world record for the most number of people blowing bubbles simultaneously – in our case, it was to raise awareness for autism.
- The Governor's Executive Order creating the Interagency Council to End Homelessness, on which we serve as co-Chair. The council is charged with developing a 10 year plan to end homelessness.
- Awarding 12 talented students for their interpretation of good parenting in our annual Teen Media Awards contest. The artwork was incredible and will be featured in the Division of Family Development's 2013 Child Support calendar.
- Collaborating with the Department of Health (DOH) to establish 21 county Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs).
- The transfer of Aging Services from DOH to DHS in July.
- Highlighting the therapeutic and vocational horticultural opportunities at our state psychiatric hospitals – in particular, Greystone and Trenton.
- Closing Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital.
- A ribbon cutting at the Christ Care Unit Missionary Baptist Church in Sicklerville – one of three regional food pantries awarded grant money to renovate their buildings to improve access for individuals using mobility devices.
- Coordinating the shelter and feeding of over 7,000 residents during and after Hurricane Sandy.

In addition, we participated in several hands-on service events this year, including collecting and distributing thousands of backpacks, coats and toys to local organizations, and helping harvest produce with the Farm to Fork program in Hunterdon County.

2013 will present new challenges as well as the opportunity for many more achievements. I look forward to working with you as we encounter them together.

Wishing you a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jennifer Velez